

1 A 1. A method comprising:
2 wirelessly linking a plurality of customers
3 within a retail facility through a local area network based
4 in the retail facility; and
5 enabling customers to exchange information
6 through said network.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein wirelessly linking
2 includes providing wireless access to a server by a
3 plurality of customers within a retail facility.

1 3. The method of claim 1 including providing a
2 processor-based device to retail customers that wirelessly
3 communicates with said server.

1 4. The method of claim 3 including enabling users to
2 activate said device by swiping a credit card through a
3 slot in said device.

1 5. The method of claim 1 including receiving audible
2 communications from said customers.

1 6. The method of claim 1 including enabling
2 customers to communicate via text messages with one another
3 over said network.

1 7. The method of claim 1 including pushing
2 electronic files to customers.

1 8. The method of claim 1 including providing
2 information about the current location of a processor-based
3 device associated with a customer.

1 9. The method of claim 8 including providing
2 information about the customer's location to the server.

1 10. The method of claim 9 including pushing
2 information to the customer depending on the customer's
3 current location.

1 11. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3 wirelessly link a plurality of customers within a
4 retail facility through a local area network based in the
5 retail facility; and
6 enable customers to exchange information through
7 said network.

1 12. An article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to be
3 accessed wirelessly by a plurality of customers within a
4 retail facility.

1 13. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 recognize a processor-based device used by a customer in
4 response to a credit card swipe through a slot in said
5 device.

6 14. The article of claim 11 further storing
7 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
8 receive audible communications from said customers.

9 15. The article of claim 14 further storing
10 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
11 broadcast audio files to said customers.

12 16. The article of claim 11 further storing
13 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
14 enable customers to communicate via text messages with one
15 another over said network.

16 A/ 17 17. The article of claim 11 further storing
18 instructions that enable the processor-based system to push
19 electronic files to customers.

20 18. The article of claim 11 further storing
21 instructions that enable the processor-based system to

21 provide information about the current location of a
22 processor-based device associated with a customer.

1 19. The article of 18 further storing instructions
2 that enable the processor-based system to determine the
3 customer's location.

1 20. The article of claim 19 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to push
3 information to a customer depending on the customer's
4 current location.

1 21. A system comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a storage coupled to said processor to wirelessly
4 link a plurality of customers within a retail facility
5 through a local area network based in the retail facility
6 and enable customers to exchange information through said
7 network.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein said system is a
2 server.

1 23. The system of claim 22 wherein said server is
2 coupled to a wireless interface.

1 24. The system of claim 21 wherein said system
2 maintains a network of wireless, processor-based devices
3 used by customers.

1 25. The system of claim 24 wherein said system
2 recognizes said processor-based device in response to the
3 detection of a credit card swipe through a slot in one of
4 said devices.